

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCHENRY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND ROY SMITH

(Mr. ROSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend Roy P. Smith of Little Rock, Arkansas. I first met Roy in 1992 when he moved to my hometown of Prescott, Arkansas, to lead the church that my family and I belong to, the First United Methodist Church of Prescott. During his 3 years in my hometown, Roy was my pastor, my spiritual adviser, and a leader in our community. By the time Roy, along with his wife Sandy, daughter Martha Helen and son Andrew left Prescott to move on to their next assignment up the road in Malvern, Arkansas, Roy had become one of my closest and most trusted personal friends.

My family and the Smith family will be forever linked together by a strong and lasting bond of friendship, and it is a distinct pleasure to have Reverend Roy Smith here today to open this legislative day in the United States House of Representatives with his thoughtful and meaningful words of prayer. As we go about doing the work of the people, may we remember the prayer Reverend Roy Smith delivered on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives this day.

THE BUDGET

(Mr. MCHENRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, the Democrats are setting some records this week, but these are not landmarks we should be proud of. In fact, it won't make the Democrats famous, but it will most certainly make them infamous.

The Democrats are poised to pass a \$392 billion tax increase on this House floor, the largest tax increase in American history. Rewind to 1993, the last time the Democrats had control of this House Chamber, and what did they do? They proposed the largest tax increase

in American history. They're one-upping their own history.

It's amazing, Mr. Speaker. That means 115 million Americans will see taxes increased on average by \$1,795. This isn't chump change. It's real money to the American people.

And why do Democrats feel they're entitled to this money? Because that's what they do. They're Democrats. They tax. They spend. It's not a new idea. They've been at it for 70 years. If it weren't so infuriating, it would just simply be so sad.

IRAN

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. The President's threat of the use of military force against Iran is an impeachable offense. When our Commander in Chief says all options are on the table, it is unmistakable. That means a military strike, even the use of nuclear weapons. Instead of inviting calamity upon himself, our Nation and the world, President Bush should reopen serious diplomatic negotiations with Iran to de-escalate tensions and resolve all issues, including Iran's use of nuclear power.

We must reject the idea that war is inevitable and that war is diplomacy by another means and work to remove the barriers of misunderstanding between Iran and the U.S. and Iran and the region.

Instead of making statements or passing resolutions which sets the stage for conflict with Iran, Members of Congress should convene to seek a way to avert military conflict with Iran.

I will be contacting my colleagues to discuss how we can create a course of action which creates peace through integrating Iran with the world community and addresses all issues which are at the core of the conflict.

BARBECUE KILLER

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, Tynesha Stewart, a 19-year-old freshman at Texas A&M, was looking forward to spring break and coming home to Houston to visit with her mother.

There was one problem with coming home, however. Her possessive ex-boyfriend Timothy Shepherd would not leave her alone. Tynesha knew that he would contact her, even though she had repeatedly told him she wanted to move on. He and his male ego refused to accept this.

On March 15, Tynesha made one final attempt to cut the ties with this harasser. She told him that she was seeing someone else and that it was over. Shepherd decided if he could not have her, no one would, and he strangled this young college student.

This was not the end of his barbaric acts. He needed to get rid of her body, so he dismembered Tynesha and then he barbecued her on his apartment patio grill. The burning of her body took 2 full days. Shepherd did all this to the person he claimed he loved.

Timothy Shepherd has been charged with murder for his grisly crimes. The people of Texas will properly decide what to do with this barbecue killer.

Love is not harassment, control, or abuse. You never hurt someone you claim you love. And if you do, woe to you, because justice will rule the day.

And that's just the way it is.

DEMOCRATIC BUDGET IS BALANCED WITHIN THE NEXT 5 YEARS AND INVESTS IN OUR CHILDREN

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, a budget is a blueprint of a party's values. This week, Democrats will bring a budget to the House floor that cares for our children and our families without raising taxes.

For the first time in 6 years, we have an opportunity to pass a budget that actually finds balance in the next 5 years, something that Republicans never did while they controlled the House and something the President continues to refuse to do. We want to get our fiscal house in order so that our children are not forced to pay off our debts decades from now. At the same time we are paying down our debt, we also invest in our children, making sure they have access to quality health care and to quality education.

The Democratic budget substantially increases the S-CHIP program, which will allow our States to insure millions of children who are now uninsured. In California, it is known as the Healthy Families program. We also provide \$7.9 billion over the President's budget for education funding, which includes No Child Left Behind, special education and helping students better afford college.

Mr. Speaker, the Democratic budget values our children and puts them first while investing in our country.

THE FEDERAL BUDGET

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALBERG. Right now, taxpayers in south central Michigan are making tough choices every day to ensure their family budgets are balanced. They do so by cutting spending and having fiscal discipline. It's time we make these same commonsense choices on a Federal level.

This week in the House, we will begin debating a budget plan for the fiscal year 2008. A budget proposal introduced by my colleagues on the opposite side